

Collocalia terræ-reginæ. Rockingham Bay, Queensland.

Xerophila pectoralis. Port Augusta, S. Australia.

Sericornis minimus. Australia.

PART II. (1876).

Charmosyna papuensis. Atam, New Guinea.

Diphyllodes gulielmi-tertii. Mountains of Eastern Waigiou.

— *speciosa.* New Guinea.

— *chrysoptera.* Waigiou.

Pitta maxima. Gilolo.

Melampitta lugubris. New Guinea.

Campephaga strenua. Atam, Arfak Mountains.

Melithreptus lætior. Australia.

Ptilotis frenata. Cardwell district, Queensland.

— *flavostriata.* Rockingham Bay, Queensland.

Rhipidura dryas. Australia (North-western).

Ptilonopus nanus. Triton Bay, New Guinea: Mysol.

Amytis goyderi. S. Australia.

The only other English work bearing upon New Guinea that has lately appeared is Captain Moresby's account of his surveys of the south-eastern and northern coasts*. There is nothing strictly ornithological in this volume; but it will be read with interest by those who study the fauna of Papua as giving accurate geographical details about many little-known localities, and as containing the only map we know of in which "Yule Island," D'Albertis's headquarters, is correctly marked.

XXIII.—*Notes on a Collection of Birds from the New Hebrides.* By H. B. TRISTRAM, F.R.S.

I HAVE lately received, through the kindness of Rev. J. Inglis, who has been for many years a missionary at Aneiteum, in the New Hebrides, a small consignment of birds and eggs collected at Aneiteum, Aniwa, and Erromanga. It may be of some little interest to give a list of the collection, inas-

* Discoveries and Surveys in New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, a cruise in Polynesia and visits to the Pearl-shelling stations in Torres Straits of H.M.S. 'Basilisk.' By Captain John Moresby, R.N. London: Murray. 1876. 1 vol. 8vo.

much as I am not aware of the existence of any separate paper on the avifauna of this group.

Unfortunately the box was about a year on its way to me, and the greater part of the contents, especially the parcel from Erromanga, have been utterly destroyed by damp and sea-water—so much so that many of the specimens are reduced to a mass of pulp, and utterly unrecognizable. Of those that have escaped utter destruction there seem to be twenty-seven species; only one, however, of these is new to science.

1. *STRIX DELICATULA*, Gould.

The collection contains two specimens, with the remark, "lives in woods and not much seen. Native name 'Nalith-mot.'" The specimens no way vary from others I possess from Australia, Fiji, and the Samoa Islands. I may mention in passing that, though the Pacific specimens I have seen are for the most part of a much purer white on the lower surface than the British *Strix flammea*, yet one from Samoa is as much spotted as many English specimens. The specimens are from Aneiteum.

2. *COLLOCALIA UROPYGIALIS*, G. R. Gray.

This is one of the brightest-coloured species of the group. The whole upper surface has a fine resplendent sheen; and the pure white rump is very conspicuous. The lower surface is white slightly mottled with grey. The bird is figured in Brenchley's 'Cruise of the Curaçoa.' There are specimens from Aneiteum and Aniwa; and it is stated to be plentiful. Native name "Jumat-juma."

3. *HALCYON JULIÆ*, Heine.

Of this pretty Kingfisher there are specimens from Erromanga, Aneiteum, and Aniwa. It would seem to be one of the most abundant species in the group. There are specimens of the young as well as of the adult, corresponding well with Mr. Sharpe's figure in his "Alcedinidæ," excepting that the collar is of a deeper chestnut and very clearly defined. Mr. Inglis merely states of it that it lives near the shore, and is known to the natives of Aneiteum as "Nedeng."

4. HALCYON SANCTUS, Vig. & Horsf.

A pair of this species are in the collection, obtained at Aneiteum; the first authentic instance of the New Hebrides as a habitat for this Kingfisher, though Mr. Sharpe observes that Mr. G. R. Gray has given them as one of its localities. Both my specimens are adult, and have not the slightest tinge of cinnamon on the plumage. The under wing-coverts are pure white, while in *H. julie* they are always rich cinnamon; the upper wing-coverts and back are also darker than in that species.

5. MYZOMELA CARDINALIS (Forst.).

Of this brilliant little Honeybird there are several specimens both from Aneiteum and Aniwa, in various stages of plumage. Gray's description, in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Tropical Islands of the Pacific,' of an immature specimen is rather applicable to the female. The adult male is very like *M. nigriventris*, Peale, from Samoa, but larger, with much more scarlet on the back, and the rich scarlet of the breast not extending so far down.

The female is smaller than the male by .2 inch, and the wing by .15. It has only red on the forehead and throat, and a faint tinge of red on the occiput and rump. The natives seem to imagine it a distinct species, calling the male at Aneiteum "Inhenaug," at Aniwa "Ta-manume," and the male on the former island "Inyara," at the latter place "Ta-wenwene." A nest from Aniwa attributed to this bird is a very neat structure, reminding me somewhat of the nest of a *Drymæca*, small, compact, and well finished; the outer portion of cocoanut fibres, and the lining of very fine vegetable fibre or rootlets. Eggs, said to be those of *Myzomela* by the natives, are pale blue; but they are doubtless those of *Zosterops*, and were not identified by my kind and careful correspondent or his friend Mr. Paton.

These birds resort much to the gardens, sucking the flowers.

6. MYZOMELA —— ?

Specimens too much damaged for identification, but a very much smaller species than the above.

7. *ZOSTEROPS FLAVIFRONS* (Lath.).

This, the largest and finest of the White-eyes with which I am acquainted, is stated to be very plentiful about gardens. I have it both from Aneiteum and Aniwa. The species is most remarkable for the great size of its bill. The nests sent me resemble exactly those of *Zosterops flaviceps* as described by Mr. Layard (not by Finsch and Hartlaub), suspended neatly in the angle of two horizontal twigs by loops of fibrous rootlets, and composed throughout of fibres, fine roots, and cobwebs. The eggs, pale turquoise-blue, like those of the whole genus without exception, are of course much larger than any of their congeners in my collection. Native name at Aneiteum "Inheleng," at Aniwa "Tafurusiu." Nests taken 24th October and 14th November.

8. *PETROICA SIMILIS*, G. R. G.

There is a pair of this pretty little bird from Aneiteum in the collection. It is very like *P. pusilla* of Samoa, but is larger, and the male has the throat dark brown instead of black. Native name "Katamal."

9. *RHIPIDURA*, sp. ?

One specimen of an undoubted *Rhipidura* was in the Erromanga collection, but so utterly decayed that it crumbled to a mass of feathers at once, and there was no possibility of identifying it. This is the more disappointing as the species given by Forster as from the New Hebrides seems to be as yet undecided. One egg out of three came safely, and is precisely like those in my collection of *R. albiscapa* from Australia, and very distinct from any other Flycatcher's.

I may mention that, while the skins arrived in such deplorable condition, the nest and eggs, in a tight box within, were unharmed by damp or water, which had penetrated every thing else.

10. *MYIAGRA MELANURA*, G. R. Gray.

From Aneiteum and Aniwa. The glossy black throat and breast of the male strikingly contrasts with the rich chestnut of the female. There are two nests, each with eggs, from Aniwa. The nests are most peculiar, very like those of *M.*

castaneiventris described by Mr. Layard, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 435, but more coarsely lined with merely rough grasses and fibres. Outside they are covered with small circular patches of some lichen like fish-scales, and pure white, as though to make the nest appear like a knot grown over with lichen. I fancy Mr. Layard's informant was mistaken in supposing the eggs of the Fiji species to be blue, as those from Aniwa are remarkable for their peculiarity. They are, to my eye, the most handsome of any Flycatcher's, of a pallid clay-colour, with a broad belt of blotches, almost a mass of dark umber, forming a zone near the thick end of the shell. The rest of the surface is unspotted. They approach in coloration and character the eggs of the American *Pyrocephalus rubineus*. The native name at Aneiteum is "Laknuh," at Aniwa "Manusa." Both nests taken 24th October, containing one three, the other two eggs.

11. *PACHYCEPHALA CHLORURA*, G. R. Gray.

One specimen from Aneiteum. Native name "Inman-atahing."

12. *CAMPEPHAGA CALEDONICA* (Gm.).

One specimen from Erromanga.

13. *LALAGE NÆVIA* (Forst.) ?

There is one specimen of a *Lalage* from Aneiteum, but so decayed that I cannot with certainty decide the species. It seems, however, to agree with Gray's description, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 163.

14. *TRICHOGLOSSUS MASSENÆ*, Bp.

This beautiful Parrakeet is stated by Mr. Inglis to live in small flocks in the tops of the cocoanut-trees. There are a pair in the collection from Aneiteum, where it is known to the natives as "Kula." There is a very accurate figure in Brenchley's work, whose specimen was obtained in the Solomon Islands. It is nearly allied to *T. cyanogrammus* from Bouru, but may be at once distinguished by the peculiar bronze copper-colour of the occiput and throat.

15. *CARPOPHAGA PACIFICA* (Gm.) ?

One specimen of a *Carpophaga* from Erromanga has arrived

in a condition which renders it impossible to identify it satisfactorily. So far, however, as it can be made out it agrees with Bonaparte's description of *C. pacifica*, which is stated to occur in the New Hebrides.

16. MACROPYGIA, sp.?

A skin of some species of this group occurs from Aneiteum in a condition too much damaged by damp to enable me to identify it. It is one of the smaller species of this genus, and known to the natives as "Inman-aleng."

17. CHALCOPHAPS CHRYSOCHLORA, Gould.

Mr. R. B. Sharpe has kindly identified for me this species, of which I have the remains of several specimens. They are from Aneiteum, where Mr. Inglis states the bird is very plentiful. Its native name is "Naloupa." It seems to have considerably more white on the shoulder than have Australian specimens. There is also a specimen from Aniwa, where the natives know it as "Tafoitu." Eggs sent along with it are considerably smaller than those of our Turtledove, and are cream-colour instead of white, in this resembling *Geotrygon*.

18. PTILONOPUS GREYI, G. R. Gray.

A specimen of this beautiful Pigeon is sent by Mr. Paton from Aniwa, where it is known as "Ta-foikuku." He also sends two eggs, taken on 24th October. They are a trifle smaller than those of the species last named, and are of a dark cream-colour, darker than *Æna capensis*. It will be interesting to ascertain if this peculiarity is shared by any other *Ptilonopus*, those Mr. Layard has found in Fiji being pure white.

19. CHARADRIUS FULVUS, Gm.

Abundant on the shore. Sent in various stages of plumage. Native name at Aniwa "Ta-kuriri," at Aneiteum the small "Nagag."

20. LIMOSA BAUERI, Naum.

Lives on the shore, and is very plentiful. Native name large "Nagag" at Aneiteum. The specimens are in various states of winter plumage.

21. *LIMOSA MELANUROIDES*, Gould?

One specimen from Aniwa, among seven of the fan-tailed species, is rather smaller, and with the tail not barred, yet not black, but dark brown. I believe, therefore, that it is an immature bird of Mr. Gould's *L. melanuroides*.

22. *ARDEA SACRA*, Gm.

Two specimens in good state from Aneiteum are in the collection. They are considerably larger than *A. sacra* from Samoa. I observe that they sustain the remarks made by G. R. Gray, who would have separated them under his name of *A. albolineata*, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 166. The difference seems to be too slight and uncertain on which to found a species; but if not two species, there are certainly two races in these Pacific Islands, a larger and a smaller, and the two do not appear to be found in the same locality anywhere. Native name "Inpaing." Mr. Inglis observes that it wades in the sea rather than in streams.

23. *RALLUS PHILIPPENSIS*, L.

From Aneiteum. Native name "Nebutch." "Note. Lives in the bush, and flies little."

24. *PORPHYRIO ANEITEUMENSIS*, sp. nov.

Long. tot. 18·5, alæ a carp. 9·4, caud. 3·6, rostr. a rict. 1·35, mand. super. cum scuta 2·4, tars. 3·5, dig. med. cum ungue 3·75. Coloribus non aliter distributis quam in *P. indico* et *P. vitiensi*, sed dorso non tam læte cærulescente quam in *P. indico*.

I have been induced to describe the Purple Gallinule of the New Hebrides as a new species, since I cannot identify it by any of the descriptions within my reach. I think a confusion has arisen in this group owing to an error in Cassin's 'Ornithology of the United States Exploring Expedition.' He there gives *P. indicus* as the species found in Samoa; but in a footnote he gives measurements corresponding exactly with those I have given above for the New-Hebrides bird. Now these measurements do not agree in the least with those of true *P. indicus*, as correctly given by Finsch and Hartlaub and by Schlegel, and proved by specimens before me from Sumatra and Macassar.

I have on the table four Samoan specimens. Their measurements run all slightly smaller than those of *P. indicus*; and besides they have not the suffused blue on the back, which is black-brown instead of blue-black. The Samoan bird is, I think, distinct from the *P. indicus*. Whether it be distinct from *P. vitiensis*, Peale, I cannot say, not having a specimen from the Fijis. Peale distinctly states that *P. vitiensis* is much smaller than the Samoan bird; and he gives measurements which accord pretty nearly with my Samoan specimens. Probably, then, Mr. Whitmee is correct in his conjecture that his bird is *P. vitiensis* (Ibis, 1875, p. 446); but it is, perhaps, a little larger. My solution of the confusion is that Cassin got hold of a specimen of the species I am now describing, which was erroneously marked as from Samoa, and identified it as *P. indicus*, the real Samoan bird being very close to that species.

The New-Hebrides bird is halfway between *P. indicus* and the large *P. melanotus* of Australia and New Zealand, both in size and coloration.

Mr. Inglis writes of its habits that it lives inland, and eats taro and sugar-cane (as Mr. Layard says of the Fiji bird). It is known to the natives as "In-nga."

25. *ANOUS STOLIDUS*, L.

From Aneiteum. Native name "Ketipup."

26. *GYGIS CANDIDA*, Sparrm.

From Aniwa.

27. *PHAETON RUBRICAUDA*, Bodd.

From Aneiteum, where its tail-feathers are much prized by the natives, who call it "Intoneg."

Besides these, there are memoranda in Mr. Inglis's letter of three other species of birds which have perished in transit. There are also several nests bearing numbers corresponding to those of birds which have perished. One is probably the nest of the *Rhipidura*, a very fine Flycatcher-structure resting on two horizontal branches. Another I can only refer to *Myzomela*. It is exceedingly fine, compact, and tough, of a consistency between a Humming-bird's and a Tree-wasp's nest.

It is built among some twigs, after the fashion of a Long-tailed Titmouse's, and has a singular pendent tail, giving it the form of an inverted cone or jelly-bag. The inside is lined with very fine rootlets; and the outside, the rim, and halfway down the interior are, as it were, solidly felted with cobwebs. In it are the fragments of two eggs, of a pinky white ground, covered with brown blotches. Outside diameter of nest $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, depth inside $1\frac{1}{8}$, from rim to end of tail $4\frac{1}{4}$.

XXIV.—On *Sericulus xanthogaster*, Schl., and *Xanthomelus aureus* (Linn.). By T. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

AMONG the birds from New Guinea collected by D'Albertis, Beccari, and Bruijn's hunters, or obtained by them from the natives, are seven specimens (six males quite adult, and one in transitional plumage) of *Xanthomelus aureus*, and two birds which quite agree with Schlegel's *Sericulus xanthogaster*, figured by Elliot in his 'Monograph of the birds of Paradise' under the name of *Chlamydodera xanthogastra*; with the latter name they have been mentioned by Mr. Sclater (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 697).

Working lately at *Xanthomelus aureus* for my book on the birds of New Guinea, I have been struck by the fact that the male in transitional plumage, mentioned above, shows characters intermediate between those of the fully adult *X. aureus* and those of the so-called *Sericulus xanthogaster*; and having gone through the subject, I have arrived at the conclusion, which I think will be rather unexpected, that *Sericulus xanthogaster* is the young of *Xanthomelus aureus*.

The specimen in transitional plumage which has led me to this conclusion is, unfortunately, a native skin, without feet: it has the upper part of the head orange-red; some of the feathers round the eyes and on the sides of the head are black; on the throat there are a few blackish feathers; all the upper parts, the wings and the tail, from above, included, are olive-brown, with a slight yellow tinge on the upper tail-coverts; the feathers of the mantle are rather elongated and